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JANUARY 2015

Your guide to the updated
Cambridge English:
First (FCE).

Guide to the updated Cambridge English: First (FCE).

JANUARY 2015

Your at-a-glance guide to the changes to Paper 1: Reading and Paper 3: Use of English (now combined)

Specifications up to December 2014

Reading Paper

PAPER FORMAT

4 Parts in total

TASKS

Part 1: Multiple choice (8 questions)

A text followed by multiple-choice questions with four options: A, B, C or D.

Part 2: Gapped text (7 questions)

A text with missing sentences; candidates choose the correct sentence order from a jumbled list.

Part 3: Multiple matching (15 questions)

One or several texts with prompt questions; candidates match the prompt to the relevant section of the text(s).

TIMING

1 hour.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

30 questions.

MARKS

Parts 1 and 2 receive 2 marks per correct answer.
Part 3 receives 1 mark per correct answer.

LENGTH OF TEXTS

550-700 words per text.
Approximately 2000 words in total.

Specifications up to December 2014

Use of English Paper

PAPER FORMAT

4 Parts in total

TASKS

Part 1: Multiple choice cloze (12 questions)

A text with twelve gaps. Candidates choose the correct missing words by answering twelve multiple-choice questions with four options: A, B, C or D.

Part 2: Open cloze (12 questions)

A text with twelve gaps. Candidates fill in the missing words.

Part 3: Word formation (10 questions)

A text with ten gaps. Candidates form the missing words from the given stem words.

Part 4: Key word transformations (8 questions)

Eight separate questions, each containing a lead-in sentence, followed by a 'key word' and a second (gapped) sentence. Candidates complete the second sentence in three to six words, and must include the 'key word'.

TIMING

45 minutes.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

42 questions.

MARKS

Parts 1, 2 and 3 receive 1 mark per correct answer.
Part 4 receives up to 2 marks per correct answer.



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Your at-a-glance guide to the changes to Paper 1: Reading and Paper 3: Use of English (now combined)

Specifications from January 2015 Reading and Use of English Paper PAPER FORMAT

7 Parts in total

TASKS

Part 1: Multiple choice cloze (8 questions)

A text with eight gaps. Candidates choose the correct missing words by answering eight multiple-choice questions with four options: A, B, C or D.

Part 2: Open cloze (8 questions)

A text with eight gaps. Candidates fill in the missing words.

Part 3: Word formation (8 questions)

A text with eight gaps. Candidates form the missing words from the given stem words.

Part 4: Key word transformations (6 questions)

Six separate questions, each containing a lead-in sentence, followed by a 'key word' and a second (gapped) sentence. Candidates complete the second sentence in three to six words, and must include the 'key word'.

Part 5: Multiple choice (6 questions)

A text followed by six multiple-choice questions with four options: A, B, C or D.

Part 6: Gapped text (6 questions)

A text with missing sentences; candidates choose the sentence order from a jumbled list.

Part 7: Multiple matching (10 questions)

One or several short texts with ten prompt questions; candidates match the prompt to the relevant section of the text(s).

TIMING

1 hour 15 minutes.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

52 questions.

MARKS

Parts 1, 2, 3 and 7 receive 1 mark per correct answer. Part 4 receives up to 2 marks per correct answer. Parts 5 and 6 receive 2 marks per correct answer.

LENGTH OF TEXTS

Approximately 2200-2500 words in total.



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Your at-a-glance guide to the changes to Paper 2: Writing

Specifications up to December 2014 Writing Paper

PAPER FORMAT

2 Parts in total.

Part 1 is compulsory;

Part 2 is a choice of one out of five tasks.

TASKS

Part 1 (Question 1)

Candidates read input information (including adverts, extracts from letters, emails, schedules, etc. of up to 160 words) and write a Letter or Email.

Part 2: (Questions 2-4)

Candidates write one of the following (described in no more than 70 words): Article, Essay, Letter, Report, Review or Story

(Question 5 – 2 options)

Candidates write one of the following, based on one of the set reading texts: Article, Essay, Letter, Report, Review

TIMING

1 hour 20 minutes.

NUMBER OF WORDS

Part 1: 120-150 words; Part 2: 120-180 words.

MARKS

Each question is worth equal marks.

Specifications from January 2015 Writing Paper

PAPER FORMAT

2 Parts in total.

Part 1 is compulsory;

Part 2 is a choice of one out of five tasks.

TASKS

Part 1: (Question 1)

A writing task with an essay title and two points to include. Candidates must also develop their own ideas. They will be required to give an opinion and reason for their opinion.

Task type: Discursive Essay.

Part 2: (Questions 2-4)

A contextualised writing task with a clear context, topic, purpose and target reader.

Task types are: Article, Email/Letter, Report, Review.

TIMING

1 hour 20 minutes.

NUMBER OF WORDS

Part 1: 140-190 words; Part 2: 140-190 words..

MARKS

Each question is worth equal marks.



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Your at-a-glance guide to the changes to Paper 4: Listening

Specifications up to December 2014 Listening Paper

PAPER FORMAT

4 Parts in total.

TASKS

Part 1: Multiple choice (8 questions)

A series of extracts with one or more speakers lasting around 30 seconds each. Candidates answer one multiple choice question per extract, each with three options: A, B or C.

Part 2: Sentence completion (10 questions)

A three-minute monologue or dialogue. Candidates fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

Part 3: Multiple matching (5 questions)

A series of related monologues lasting around 30 seconds each. Candidates match the extract to the correct option from a list of six.

Part 4: Multiple choice (7 questions)

A three-minute monologue or dialogue. Candidates answer multiple choice questions with 3 options: A, B or C.

TIMING

Approximately 40 minutes.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

30.

MARKS

1 mark per correct answer.

Specifications from January 2015 Listening Paper

PAPER FORMAT

4 Parts in total.

TASKS

Part 1 Multiple choice (8 questions)

A series of extracts with one or more speakers lasting around 30 seconds each. Candidates answer one multiple choice question per extract, each with three options: A, B or C.

Part 2: Sentence completion (10 questions)

A three to four minute monologue. Candidates fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

Part 3: Multiple matching (5 questions)

A series of related monologues lasting around 30 seconds each. Candidates match the extract to the correct option from a list of eight.

Part 4: Multiple choice (7 questions)

A three to four minute dialogue between interacting speakers. Candidates answer multiple choice questions with 3 options: A, B or C.

TIMING

Approximately 40 minutes.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

30.

MARKS

1 mark per correct answer.



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Your at-a-glance guide to the changes to Paper 5: Speaking

Specifications up to December 2014 Speaking Paper

PAPER FORMAT

4 Parts in total.

TASKS

Part 1: Conversation between Interlocutor and each candidate (3 minutes)

Candidates take it in turns to answer spoken questions that focus on interactional and social language.

Part 2: Individual 'long turn' (1 minute) and response from second candidate (20 seconds)

Each candidate is given a pair of photographs and asked to talk about them, using the prompt questions on the page. The second candidate gives a brief response. Tasks focus on: comparing, describing and expressing opinions.

Part 3: Two-way conversation between candidates (3 minutes)

Candidates are given spoken instructions, along with visual and written prompts, and work on a decision-making task. The focus is on sustaining the interaction by: sharing ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating and negotiating to reach a decision.

Part 4: Discussion related to the task in Part 3 (4 minutes)

Candidates answer spoken questions that focus on: expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing.

TIMING

14 minutes.

ASSESSMENT

Candidates are assessed on their performance throughout.

Specifications from January 2015 Speaking Paper

PAPER FORMAT

4 Parts in total.

TASKS

Part 1: Conversation between Interlocutor and each candidate (2 minutes)

Candidates take it in turns to answer spoken questions that focus on interactional and social language.

Part 2: Individual 'long turn' (1 minute) and response from second candidate (30 seconds).

Total time 4 minutes.

Each candidate is given two photographs and asked to talk about them. The second candidate gives a brief response. Tasks focus on discourse organisation, comparing, describing and expressing opinions.

Part 3: Two-way conversation between candidates (2 minutes) and decision-making task (1 minute)

Total time 4 minutes.

Candidates collaborate on a task, using written prompts, with the focus on sustaining the interaction by: sharing ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating and negotiating to reach a decision.

Part 4: Discussion related to the task in Part 3 (4 minutes)

Candidates answer spoken questions that focus on: expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, and speculating.

TIMING

14 minutes.

ASSESSMENT

Candidates are assessed on their performance throughout.



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